

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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P R 180700Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9172

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 7

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12. SOUTHASIA
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SUMMARY: A PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS STATED THAT HUA KUO-FENG HAS BEEN "OFFICIALLY NOMINATED" TO THE POST OF PREMIER AND IS AWAITING CONFIRMATION. POSTERS ATTACKING TENG HSIAO-PING HAVE SPREAD FROM PEKING TO SHANGHAI AND OTHER LOCALITIES AND PUBLIC MEDIA ATTACKS HAVE GROWN SHARPER IN AN ESCALATING ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN. EXTERNALLY, THE PRC MEDIA HAVE RETURNED TO DAILY, ROUTINE CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIETS, HITTING ESPECIALLY AT THEIR ROLE IN ANGOLA. THE PEKING VISITS OF TWO AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WERE USED TO EXPRESS CHINESE VIEWS ON ANGOLA, WHILE AN FRG DELEGATION WAS TREATED TO STANDARD PRC RHETORIC ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION. END SUMMARY

1. HUA KUO-FENG CONFIRMED AS "PREMIER-IN-WAITING"

A CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NOTHING TEMPORARY TO THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG AS "ACTING PREMIER" (WR 6). THE OFFICIAL DECLARED THAT HUA HAD BEEN "OFFICIALLY NOMINATED" TO THE POST OF PREMIER AND IS AWAITING CONFIRMATION. SUCH CONFIRMATION CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, WHICH HAS YET TO CONVENE (PKING 0256). CONFIDENTIAL

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2. POSTER CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING

VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING'S POLITICAL STOCK CONTINUED TO FALL WITH THE UNLEASHING OF A POSTER CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. THE THINLY VEILED ATTACKS--TENG HAS NOT YET BEEN MENTIONED BY NAME--ACCUSED HIM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF BEING CHINA'S NEW KHRUSHCHEV, OF OPPOSING PARTY CONTROL OVER THE ARMY, AND OF EMPHASIZING PRODUCTION AND DAMPENING CLASS STRUGGLE.

THE POSTERS WERE FIRST NOTICED AT PEKING AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES, THEN AT SCHOOLS IN SHANGHAI, AND HAVE SINCE SPREAD TO THE STREETS OF SHANGHAI AND ONE OR TWO OTHER CHINESE CITIES. THE POSTER ATTACKS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN UNDER CAREFUL CONTROL. PEOPLE ARE BEING BUSED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION TO VIEW THEM, FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO SEE THEM, AND, WHEN ONE POSTER AT FUTAN UNIVERSITY IN SHANGHAI ATTACKED TENG BY NAME, IT WAS QUICKLY PULLED DOWN. UNCLASSIFIED

3. A CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED FEBRUARY 13 THAT TENG WAS STILL A VICE PREMIER, AND ON FEBRUARY 7 'JUST PRIOR TO THE POSTER ATTACKS) THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATED TENG WAS STILL PLA CHIEF OF STAFF. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF HIS CURRENT PARTY STATUS, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM IS STILL IN THE INITIAL STAGES. TENG HIMSELF HAS NOT APPEARED IN PUBLIC SINCE JANUARY 15 (PEKING 0256, PEKING 0254). CONFIDENTIAL

4. PEOPLE'S DAILY ESCALATES ATTACK

IN TWO MAJOR ARTICLES IN THE PAST WEEK, PEOPLE'S DAILY ESCALATED ITS ATTACK ON CAPITALIST ROADERS WITHIN THE PARTY AND, BY IMPLICATION, ON TENG HSIAO-PING (WR 6). A FEBRUARY 13 ARTICLE LINKING THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN TO EARLIER CRITICISM OF CONFUCIUS ACCUSED RIGHTISTS OF IGNORING CHAIRMAN MAO'S CRITERIA FOR RECRUITING SUCCESSORS AND RESTORING INSTEAD THOSE WHO WERE PURGED IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. ON FEBRUARY 17 ANOTHER LEAD ARTICLE ADDED THE CHARGE THAT THESE CAPITALIST ROADERS HAVE SABOTAGED STABILITY AND UNITY AND SPLIT THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THEY ARE ALSO ACCUSED OF HAVING NEGATED THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF LAST YEAR'S CAMPAIGN TO STUDY THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT BY LINKING IT WITH THE THEMES OF UNITY AND STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE IMPLICATION IS THAT BY CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE REAL MEANING OF THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN--A CONTINUATION OF CLASS STRUGGLE--WAS LOST.

5. PEOPLE'S DAILY CONTINUES TO BE PACKED WITH ARTICLES ATTACKING THE "BOURGEOIS RIGHTIST WIND TO REVERSE PREVIOUS VERDICTS," AND MANY OF THESE THEMES ARE NOW BEING PICKED UP IN THE PROVINCES. AMONG THE MOST COMMON, IN ADDITION TO THE ORIGINAL EDUCATION AND SCIENCE DEBATES, IS THE CHARGE THAT RIGHTISTS HAVE USED CHINA'S NEED TO MODERNIZE AS AN EXCUSE TO BETRAY CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. MOST COMMENTARIES, HOWEVER, HASTEN TO ADD THAT THE GOAL OF MODERNIZATION IS NOT UNDER ATTACK, BUT ONLY THE METHODS.

6. IN GENERAL, THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR SEEMS TO BE UNDER FAIRLY

FIRM PRTY CONTROL. MOST MEETINGS ARE HELD UNDER PARTY
AUSPICES, AND ONE BROADCAST HAS SPOKEN OF "EXPLICIT INSTRU-
CTIONS" FROM THE CENTER ON THE CONDUCT OF THE DEBATE. NEVERTHELESS,
WITH A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF A SPLIT IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
THE DANGER SIGNALS ARE UP. AS SEVERAL RECENT PEKING COMMENTARIES
HAVE NOTED, THE STRUGGLE HAS JUST BEGUN.

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NY
FBIS OKINAWA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMIPAC
CHMAAGCHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USACC TAIWAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ROME
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7. CHEN HSI-LIEN ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE?

VARIOUS SOURCES INDICATE THAT CHEN HSI-LIEN HAS BECOME ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER, RELIEVING AN AILING YEH CHIEN-YING. WHILE IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE PERMANENT AND ALTHOUGH THE PLAN TO GIVE CHEN GREATER MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS SINCE LAST YEAR, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOTH SIDES IN THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WILL SEEK TO WIN CHEN'S SUPPORT. CHEN'S LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE WAS JANUARY 19, AND THE PLA HAS REMAINED TOTALLY IN THE BACKGROUND AS THE CURRENT DEBATE RAGES OVER CAPITALIST ROADERS IN THE PARTY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

8. UNITED STATES

PRC MEDIA COMMENT ON THE US WAS LIMITED DURING THE WEEK. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SEVERAL NEGATIVE STORIES ON TEACHERS' STRIKES AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE MEDIA AGAIN REFERRED TO DIEGO GARCIA IN TERMS OF THE US NEED TO "CHALLENGE" THE SOVIETS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND QUOTED THE 7TH FLEET COMMANDER IN THIS REGARD. NCNA ALSO REPLAYED WESTERN AGENCY REPORTS ON RADIATION DANGERS AT EMBASSY MOSCOW. NCNA BRIEFLY NOTED THE PRESENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DELEGATION IN PEKING AT A MEETING WITH LIU AI-FENG, A "LEADING MEMBER" OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, WHO INCIDENTALLY WAS PURGED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION FOR ESPOUSING "EXPERT" RATHER THAN "RED" EDUCATION (NCNA, FEBRUARY 11-15).
UNCLASSIFIED

9. SOVIETS

AFTER A WEEK'S LULL (WR 6) IN SELF-GENERATED PRC ANTI-SOVIET POLEMICS, BOTH PEOPLE'S DAILY AND NCNA HAVE FEATURED DAILY ANTI-SOVIET COMMENTARIES SINCE FEBRUARY 11. THE CHOICE OF TOPICS--ANGOLA, SEEKING HEGEMONY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SOVIET SUBVERSION--ARE ALL FAMILIAR AS IS THE RHETORIC. ON SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES,

PEOPLE'S DAILY WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO POINT OUT THAT SOVIET
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SPIES HEAVILY OUTNUMBER US CIA PERSONNEL AND CAME CLOSE TO
JUSTIFYING CIA ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE SOVIETS ARE ACCUSED
IN OTHER PIECES OF RETURNING TO HITLER-LIKE FASCISM, BETRAYING
LENIN AND MARX AND WORSHIPPING TSARIST EXPANSIONISTS.
THERE WAS ALSO THE USUAL PLETHORA OF REPLAYS FROM WESTERN
EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES WARNING OF SOVIET DESIGNS ON EUROPE
AND THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN PREPAREDNESS (NCNA, FEBRUARY 11-
17). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

10. AFRICA

PRC TREATMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL AFRICAN VISITORS FROM MAURITANIA
AND ZAIRE REFLECTS PEKING'S EFFORTS TO PRESERVE CHINA'S
INFLUENCE AND OPTIONS IN ANGOLA AND AFRICA. THUS FAR ACTING
PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG HAS RECEIVED ONLY THE MAURITANIAN
PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY, WHO ARRIVED IN PEKING FEBRUARY
14 FOR A TWO-DAY VISIT. GIVEN CHINA'S APPREHENSION OVER
THE GROWTH OF SOVIET INTERESTS IN AFRICA, HUA PRESUMABLY
REITERATED PEKING'S CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA
AND THE WESTERN SAHARA. FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA HAS MET AND
MET THE MAURITANIAN ENVOY AS WELL AS THE ZAIRIAN
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. NANA'S FAILURE TO REPORT REMARKS AT
THE BANQUET HONORING THE MAURITANIANS SUGGESTS THAT PEKING
SEEKS TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLICLY AIRING THE DIFFERING VIEWS
ON ANGOLA AND FROM PUBLICLY COMMENTING ON THE SAHARA ISSUE.
CHIAO'S REMARKS AT THE BANQUET HONORING THE ZAIRIANS REVEALED
THAT, DESPITE MPLA POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUCCESSES, PEKING
FORESEES CONTINUED AND PROTRACTED STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA. THE
ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL'S REPLY HIGHLIGHTED THE CLOSENESS OF THE
PRC AND ZAIRIAN VIEWS. A SUBSEQUENT REPORT ON THE ZAIRE
DELEGATION'S VISIT TO A PEKING TANK UNIT SUGGESTS THAT THE
CHINESE WILL PROVE RESPONSIVE TO ZAIRIAN REQUESTS FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE (NCNA, FEBRUARY 14-17). UNCLASSIFIED

11. WEST GERMANY

AT A BANQUET HONORING A VISITING WEST GERMAN DELEGATION,
FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA ASSERTED THAT THE UNIFICATION OF
GERMANY AS DESIRED BY THE GERMAN PEOPLE IS "JUSTIFIED" AND
POSES "NO DANGER " TO THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE. THE FALSE CHARGES
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OF HEGOMONISTS, CHIAO CONTENDED, ARE AN EFFORT OF THE UNNAMED
SOVIETS TO MASK THEIR AMBITIONS FOR THE CONTINUED DIVISION

OF GERMANY AND EXPANSION IN WESTERN EUROPE. AFTER OPTIMISTICALLY OPINING THAT MORE WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE PERCEIVING THE TRUE FEATURES OF HEGEMONISM, HE MOVED ON THE CRITICIZE SOVIET MOVES AND INTENTIONS IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE. IN RESPONSE ALFRED DREGGER, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, TOUCHED ON SUCH ISSUES AS DETENTE WITH THE SOVIETS, THE RELATIVE US-SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH, ANGOLA AND EUROPEAN UNITY ALONG LINES WHICH MUST HAVE PLEASED HIS CHINESE HOSTS. (NCNA, FEBRUARY 13 AND 14) UNCLASSIFIED

12. SOUTH ASIA

ALTHOUGH PRC MEDIA RECENTLY HAS GENERALLY REFRAINED FROM CRITICAL COMMENT ON INDIAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, TWO RECENT NCNA ARTICLES HAVE CITED DACCA'S PROBLEMS WITH DELHI AND SOURCED THE PROBLEM TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. A FEBRUARY 14 REPORT NOTED DACCA'S CONTENTION THAT THE INDIAN SIDE HAS BEEN GIVING SANCTUARY TO "MISCREANTS" IN THE BORDER REGION. NANA NOTED THE INDIAN DENIAL OF SUCH CHARGES, BUT FOLLOWED UP BY CITING BANGLADESH NEWS REPORTS DETAILING ALLEGED EVIDENCE OF INDIAN SUPPORT. THE FOLLOWING DAY NCNA REPORTED DACCA'S CHARGE THAT INDIA'S UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE GANGES WATERS AT THE FARAKA BARRAGE IS IN VIOLATION OF AN APRIL, 1975 AGREEMENT AND IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE BANGLADESH ECONOMY (NCNA, FEBRUARY 14 AND 15). UNCLASSIFIED

13. EAST TIMOR

ALTHOUGH THE RC MEDIA HAVE NOT RESUMED THEIR OWN ATTACKS ON INDONESIAN POLICIES VIS-A-VIS EAST TIMOR, NCNA THIS WEEK CARRIED THREE STATEMENTS BY FRETELIN LEADERS INDICATING THEIR RESOLVE TO USE GUERRILLA TACTICS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING THE INDONESIAN TROOPS AND CHARGES OF MASSACRES BY THE INDONESIANS (NCNA, FEBRUARY 12-16). UNCLASSIFIED
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